

I am in favor of this proposal and strongly urge the commission to pass it. I believe a consolidation of license classes is badly needed. I am a VE and have seen many people confused about eligibility for "instant upgrades" and how to handle Technician licensees who have passed a code test who are uncertain about how long such credit is usable for upgrades, just to name two examples. Furthermore, I would prefer a complete elimination of the morse requirement, as I don't find a need to test people on a mode they may or may not operate. I believe that if Amateur Radio is to continue to grow, morse code exams should stop being mandatory, as I know people who wish to advance beyond a technician license but have great difficulty and have thus far been unable to master "The Code", and they have no intention to operate using it, they simply wish to be able to work HF bands for long range communication capabilities. The current requirements therefore are unfair to these individuals. Although the CW only band segments should remain as it is undoubtedly the most efficient mode of communication for those proficient in it, such proficiency requirements are hampering the growth and number of new "hams", and we are an invaluable source of communications capability for emergencies and special events.